

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial No. 09/809,218

REMARKS

A total of 4 claims remain in the present application. The foregoing amendments are presented in response to the Office Action mailed September 23, 2004, wherefore reconsideration of this application is requested.

By way of the above-noted amendments, claims 18-33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter defined therein. Original claims 32 and 33 have been rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of any intervening claims, and reintroduced as new claims 36 and 37 respectively. Claims 34 and 35 have been amended to depend from new claim 37. Clearly, no new subject matter has been introduced.

Referring now to the text of the Office Action:

- claims 18-22, 25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being unpatentable over the teaching of United States Patent Application No. 2002/0039885 (Weissman et al.);
- claims 23 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the teaching of United States Patent Application No. 2002/0039885 (Weissman et al.) in view of United States Patent No. 6,731,904 (Judd);
- claims 24 and 28-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the teaching of United States Patent Application No. 2002/0039885 (Weissman et al.) in view of United States Patent No. 4,941,200 (Leslie); and
- claims 32-35 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 32-35. Accordingly, the claims have been restricted to the subject matter of allowed claims 32-35, so as to place the application into condition for immediate allowance. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation or continuation-in-part application directed to the subject matter of cancelled claims 18-31 at any time prior to issuance of a patent in the present case.

In light of the foregoing, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and early action in that respect is courteously solicited.

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If any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this response, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-5113.

Respectfully submitted,


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